

a zipper for closing the longitudinal opening to conform the sleeve to the forearm of the wearer, the closure being disposed to overlie a forward side of the forearm.

2. The protector of claim 1 and further including a protective flap that extends between edges of the opening protecting the wearer from being pinched by the zipper.

3. (Amended) The protector of claim 1 wherein the length of the sleeve is selected to extend to approximately 1 to 1½ inches from an elbow of the wearer.

4. The protector of claim 1 wherein the sleeve includes decorative indicia on an uninterrupted surface.

5. The protector of claim 1 wherein the sleeve extends to a first joint of the thumb, leaving the joint exposed.

6. The protector of claim 1 wherein the sleeve extends to a point adjacent a first knuckle of the fingers and thumb, leaving the knuckles exposed.

REMARKS

This is responsive to an Office Action mailed on January 25, 2001. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 as being obvious in light of the prior art. The application includes claims 1-6.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elliott U.S. Patent No. 4,967,419 ("419 patent") in view of the Bourdeau et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,868,927 ("Bourdeau et al. patent"). The Examiner alleges that it would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of glove making to include a longitudinal opening 7, protective